

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell, February 23, 1891

If you make Too less 1336 19th Street, Washington, D. C. February 23 rd , '91.

Please find enclosed copies of letters to Mr. Fechheimer, President Gallaniet, Senator Dawes and Senator Allison, concerning the appropriation in the Sundry Civil Bill for the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. I will keep you informed of any progress in this matter.

Yours Sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell

1336 19th St., Washington, D. C. Sunday, Feb. 22nd, 1891. L. S. Fechheimer, Esq., 141 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. My Dear Sir:—

As you express a desire in your note of the 20th inst. to be kept informed of what transpires concerning President Gallaudet's application to Congress, I write to report progress.

The Sundry Civil Bill was reported to the Senate yesterday by the Committee on appropriations with an amendment recommending that the grant to the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb be reduced from \$52,500 to \$47,500., being the same amount appropriated last year. I called on Senator Allison this morning and he suggested that I should see Senator Dawes who represents the Institution in the Senate — as Director — as he understood that Senator Dawes would probably offer an amendment on behalf of the Institution tomorrow.

Senator Dawes informed me that he had offered an amendment in Committee on behalf of President Gallaudet to the following effect:—

Amendment.

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Strike out the words

“Fifty-two thousand five hundred dollars”

and insert:

“Fifty thousand five hundred dollars, three thousand dollars of which shall be devoted to the expenses of a professor of articulation in the Collegiate Department of the Institution.”

The Committee had overruled this and had cut down the appropriation to \$47,500, the same amount as last year. I told Senator Dawes that I thought \$3000. was an inadequate sum to provide thorough articulation teaching for the seventy-one students of the College, but as it seemed to me to be a step in the right direction the amendment met my hearty endorsement.

Senator Dawes then said that he would like to propose the amendment again upon the floors of the Senate tomorrow when the Bill comes up for discussion if Senator Allison, the Chairman of the appropriation Committee would acquiesce.

He requested me to see Senator Allison again and urge him to accept the amendment. I did so with pleasure and Senator Allison replied that personally he was in favor of the amendment but would not commit himself until he had consulted with his colleagues on the Committee. I reported the result of my interview to Senator Dawes and told him that I hoped his amendment would pass. So the matter rests for the present. I shall watch the proceedings tomorrow with interest and shall have much pleasure in keeping you informed of what goes on.

Yours very sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell.

1336 19th St., Washington, D. C. Feby. 22nd, 1391. Dear President Gallaudet:—

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I was glad to learn from Senator Dawes this afternoon that you had authorized him to offer the following amendment concerning the appropriation for the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in the Sundry Civil Bill:—)

Amendment:—

Strike out the words

“Fifty-two thousand five hundred dollars”

and insert

“Fifty thousand five hundred dollars, three thousand dollars of which shall be devoted to the expenses of a professor of articulation in the Collegiate Department of the Institution.”

I fear that three thousand dollars is not sufficient to carry out the teaching of articulation successfully to so many students as you have in the National College, but I am sure it is a step in the right direction and therefore in accordance with Senator Dawes' request, I have seen Senator Allison and urged upon him the acceptance of the amendment.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell.

One enclosure. 1336 19th St. Washington, D. C. Feb. 22nd, 1891. Dear Senator Dawes:—

In accordance with your suggestion I called upon Senator Allison this afternoon and showed him a copy of President Gallaudet's amendment which you said you would like to offer in the Senate if Senator Allison would acquiesce.

Senator Allison said that personally he was not opposed to it but before committing himself he would like to consult his colleagues.

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I feel that \$3000. is too small an amount to teach articulation successfully to the seventy-one students in the National College, but as it is a step in the right direction I hope the amendment will pass.

Enclosed please find copy of the amendment you gave me.

Yours Sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell. Senator Dawes, 1900 R. Street, City.

Enclosure to Senator Dawes. Copy. Feby. 22nd, 1891.

Amendment of President Gallaudet, concerning the appropriation for the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, in the Sundry Civil Bill:—

Strike out the words:

“Fifty-two thousand five hundred dollars”

and insert:

“Fifty thousand five hundred dollars — three thousand dollars of which shall be devoted to the expenses of a professor of articulation in the Collegiate Department of the Institution.”

One enclosure . 1336 19th St., Washington, D. C. Feb. 22nd, 1891. Hon. William B. Allison, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Dear Sir:—

I neglected to leave with you this afternoon a copy of President Gallaudet's amendment which Senator Dawes said he would like to offer in the Senate tomorrow if you would acquiesce.

As this falls in line with paragraph seven of my letter to you on the 11th inst., and I feel that it is a step in the right direction I heartily endorse it although I fear that \$3000., is

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inadequate to teach articulation successfully to the seventy-one students in the National College.

Please find copy of the amendment enclosed.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell.

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Strike out the words:

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and insert:

“Fifty thousand five hundred dollars, three thousand dollars of which shall be devoted to the expenses of a professor of articulation in the Collegiate Department of the Institution.”